

SENATE BILL 2527

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to day care services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(--)(a) The department shall, no later than January 1, 2001, in consultation with the Tennessee commission on children and youth, establish and implement a system for evaluating, individually and collectively, all child care centers as defined in §71-3-501 and all entities receiving reimbursement under §71-1-130. Such evaluation system shall include development of an annual report card to be posted at each child care facility, which report card shall reflect key indicators of performance comparison among all Tennessee child care facilities. Key indicators shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) health and safety;
- (2) training, education, certification, and credentials of all supervisory staff, including the director or licensee;
- (3) staffing ratios;
- (4) child development and enrichment;
- (5) accreditation status; and

(6) adequacy of physical facilities.

It is the legislative intent that such report card be developed in a manner to be easily usable by a parent or guardian to make choices related to childcare.

(b) All entities receiving reimbursement under § 71-1-130 shall provide the department with an annual report which shall include, but not be limited to, information regarding the following:

- (1) Use of funds received as reimbursement under § 71-1-130;
- (2) Names, addresses, and amount paid for all consultants, contractors, employees, and subcontractors;
- (3) Key indicator information under subsection (a); and
- (4) Any other information required by the department related to functions performed or funds received.

(c) The department shall require an independent audit for any facility that receives in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) reimbursement under § 71-1-130, in any calendar year, and may require an audit of other facilities.

(d) "Child care facility", for purposes of this section, includes a day care center, family day care center or group day care home under § 71-1-130, and a child care center under § 71-3-501.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-527(g)(1), is amended by adding the language ", nor is it required to post a child-caring agency report card for your use" after the word "agency" and before the punctuation ".".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-527(g)(2), is amended by adding the language ", or post a report card," in the first sentence after the word "Tennessee" and before the words "as a".

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.